

# cambridge recycling guidelines

... recycling is easy and the law (Section 8.24.070).

## why recycle?

Recycling saves money, creates jobs and reduces climate change.

For each ton we recycle, the savings include 17 trees, 2 barrels of oil, 7000 gallons of water and over 3000 pounds of air pollutants.

In 2004, Cambridge residents recycled 6460 tons of paper waste and nearly 3400 tons of bottles and cans. By recycling, you helped the City save \$1.2 million in avoided disposal costs and earn over \$215,000 in revenue.

But last year, we still threw out up to 1500 tons of paper. Remember, if it rips, recycle it. Just keep it free from food and plastic wrapping.

Your efforts make a big difference.  
Thank You!

## important tips:

- Set recycling out by 7am on your collection day or after 3pm the day before. Take empty bin in by 6pm on collection day.
- Do not place papers, containers or yard waste in plastic bags.
- During holiday weeks, collection is delayed 1 day.
- Close the loop! Buy products made from post-consumer recycled materials.

## the recycling drop-off center:

Located in the rear of the DPW yard. When the Drop-off Center is closed, the public may not enter the yard.

Open hours: Tues/Thurs 4-7:30pm  
Saturdays 9-4pm

We accept: books, cans & bottles, cardboard, clothing, flags, mercury devices, fluorescent bulbs, motor oil, non-alkaline batteries, paper, packaging peanuts, plastic bags, and small household appliances (no monitors or TVs).

**Proof of residency required upon request.**

## paper & cardboard:

If it rips, recycle it! Just keep paper free from food and plastic wrapping. Place in paper bags, no plastic bags.



### what to recycle:

- **cardboard** (no pizza boxes)
- **paperboard** (cereal & tissue boxes, paper towel rolls)
- **magazines & newspapers** (glossy paper is ok)
- **phone books & junk mail** (no CDs or plastic wrap)
- **milk/juice cartons**
- **soft cover books**
- **all office paper** (no blueprints)

### no need to remove...

...staples, paper clips, spirals, plastic windows on envelopes, or even the plastic spout on milk/juice cartons!

### how to prepare paper waste:

- place **paper waste together** in a paper bag or tied, **not in plastic bags**
- put **shredded paper** in a stapled & labeled paper bag



## glass, metal & plastic containers:

Place rinsed containers loose in your bin, no plastic bags.



### what to recycle:

- **aluminum** (pie plates, trays & foil)
- **empty aerosol cans**
- **glass containers** (any color)
- **metal cans** (tin, steel & aluminum)
- **stiff plastic containers** (#1-7, no plastic bags or styrofoam)
- **plastic plant pots** **NEW!** (#1-7, must be clean)

## cardboard: it's not thaaat hard!

you have a few options:

1. flatten, cut to 3 ft x 3 ft and secure under or between bins;
2. flatten, fold & stuff in a paper bag or paper recycling toter;
3. OR, bring large, clean pieces as is to the Drop-off Center

**Pizza boxes are not accepted unless you rip off the greasy parts and put it inside out with your mixed paper.**

### how to prepare containers:

- **rinse & remove lids & caps**
- place containers, lids & caps **loose in bin**
- when possible, **wipe out** oily containers
- do not empty grease into drains

Place loose in bin, not in plastic or paper bags.

## leaf & yard waste:

Yard waste in plastic bags is not accepted and will be rejected.



### what to recycle:

- **leaves, grass & plants**
- **shrub prunings & twigs** (thinner than your thumb, shorter than your arm)
- **do not include:** tree stumps, rocks, soil, dirt, sand, food or trash

### how to prepare yard waste:

- yard waste is **not accepted in plastic bags** and will not be picked up
- place **loose in barrels with red City yard waste stickers** facing the street, or
- place in **paper yard waste bags** that are not stapled or taped
- **bundle** thick tree limbs 2 ft X 2 ft



Call 617.349.4800 for free red yard waste stickers. Collection begins the first full week in April and continues through the second week in December.

## missed recycling or yard waste?

call 617.349.4800

## is your bin broken? need another bin?

call 617.349.4800

## not accepted for curbside recycling:

- no pizza boxes
- no plastic bags\*
- no foam packaging
- no packing peanuts\*
- no broken glass
- no window glass
- no clothes hangers
- no dishes or glasses
- no light bulbs
- no toys
- no clothing\*
- no paper take-out containers
- no hard cover books\*

*\* Items with an asterisk are accepted at the Recycling Drop-off Center.*

## mixed bins will not be collected:



- no plastic bags, trash or styrofoam
- keep papers separate in a paper bag
- place rinsed containers with lids removed, loose in your bin

[www.cambridgema.gov/theworks](http://www.cambridgema.gov/theworks)



PRESORTED STANDARD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
  
CAMBRIDGE, MA  
PERMIT 58646

Information on curbside collection of recycling, yard waste and trash as well as household hazardous waste collections.

updated Summer 2005

## Recycling and Trash Guidelines for Residents



www.cambridgema.gov/theworks

Business Hours:  
M 8:30am-8pm  
T-Th 8:30am-5pm  
F 8:30am-Noon



CAMBRIDGE  
DEPARTMENT  
OF PUBLIC  
**THE WORKS**

147 Hampshire Street  
Cambridge, MA 02139  
617.349.4800  
TTY 617.349.4005

Available in:

Español  
Português

Kreyòl  
Italiano  
Deutsch  
日本語  
中文  
РУССКИЙ

 Printed on recycled paper with 30% post-consumer fiber.



Sort and pack paint, pesticides and cleaners separately but not in trash bags. Pack your car and go directly to the collection site.

### materials accepted include:

• adhesives & glues

• car tires (4 per household)

• engine degreaser

• fluorescent bulbs

• fuels (kerosene, gasoline, antifreeze)

• hobby & art supplies

• household cleaners & spot removers

• non-alkaline & car batteries

• paints (oil & latex)

• stain thinners & strippers

• photo chemicals & chemistry sets

• poison, insecticides & weed killers

• pool chemicals

• propane tanks (20 lbs or less)

• solvents & varnishes

• wood preservatives & fiberglass resins

### to ensure safety:

Never smoke while handling items; tighten caps and lids; never mix chemicals; and use original labeled containers.

### the drop-off center accepts:

Only these hazardous products are accepted (see reverse for open hours): fluorescent bulbs, non-alkaline batteries, thermometers and thermostats. Call for a free, full-color guide that describes alternatives to hazardous products.

# cambridge trash guidelines

Recycle all paper waste, cardboard, glass,plastic and metal containers. Recycling is easy and the law in Cambridge (Section 8.24.070). Reduce waste by donating items in good or working condition. Call us or visit our online A through Z *Donate & Recycle Listings* for information on where to donate unwanted items such as furniture, buildings materials, appliances, electronics, clothing and other household goods.

## the city will pick up:

- one piece of furniture per week
- carpet (cut to 3' lengths, rolled & tied)
- lumber (1 bundle, 2' x 2')
- mattress & boxspring
- thick tree limbs (3 bundles, 2' x 2')
- toilet & sink (1 per week)

## call a private hauler for:

- property cleanouts (beyond the capacity of DPW)
- automotive parts
- boilers & furnaces
- construction & demolition debris including: bathtubs, floor sandings, kitchen cabinets, pipes, sawdust, soot and sheetrock (contractors are responsible for disposal)
- tree stumps, rocks, soil, dirt, & sand

## paint:

Oil-based: contains toxic chemicals, bring to hazardous waste collection day.



Water-based: let evaporate outdoors and place hardened cans (lids removed) with trash, or bring to hazardous waste collection day.

## small computers & tvs:

One TV/monitor picked up per week per household with a diagonal screen length of 20 inches or less (for recycling) on your collection day. Hard drives, keyboards, and printers 40 lbs or less accepted. For larger items, purchase a sticker to schedule pick up.

## motor oil:

Bring motor oil with your receipt to the original point of purchase. State law requires retailers to accept and recycle it for free. Oil generated from residential use only can be brought to DPW during business hours or Drop-Off Center hours.

## purchase a sticker for removal of bulky waste

- clothes washers & dryers
- copiers & printers (more than 40 lbs)
- dehumidifiers
- dishwashers
- gas & electric stoves
- lawnmowers & snow blowers (remove gas)
- metal filing cabinets & desks
- radiators
- refrigerators & freezers (remove door)
- trash compactors
- water coolers & heaters
- window air conditioners
- tvs & computer monitors (over 20" diagonal screen length)

Purchase stickers at DPW during regular business hours. \$20, \$15 for seniors. Cash, checks or Visa/ MasterCard accepted. Make checks payable to the City of Cambridge. The City does not pick up industrial size items.

Space is limited so schedule pickup early and plan ahead. Appliances are scheduled for Wednesdays and large TVs/computers for Thursdays. Set out by 7am on scheduled day or after 3pm the day before.

Need to reschedule? Call 617.349.4800 with your sticker number ready.

## for your information:

Removing doors from refrigerators and freezers is mandated by state law to reduce potential danger to children. Failure to do so can result in a fine up to \$1000.

Appliances are banned from state landfills and incinerators because the freon inside is destructive to the upper ozone atmosphere. The City hires a licensed technician to remove the freon from all appliances before they are sent for recycling.

## finest of \$25 per day may be invoked if:

Items listed above do not have a sticker or are set out too early; if trash or recycling is set out earlier than 3 pm the day before collection day; if empty containers are not removed from the curb by 6pm the day of collection; if hazardous waste, rejected recycling, or items requiring a private hauler are left at the curb.